

## **NEW JERSEY ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE UPDATE   FEBRUARY 4, 2005**

As of February 3, 1,059 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union ALB infestation site; 454 infested host trees and 605 high-risk exposed host trees. Crews continued to work this week in Joseph Medwick Park and in the residential areas of Carteret.

With the tree removal to date, the program moves closer to completing phase one, the removal of all infested host trees from the core of the infestation. Over the next several months, more than 4,000 host trees will be removed.

Currently, 11 program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJDA and NJ Forest Service are performing survey and regulatory activities in the Middlesex/Union ALB infestation site. Seven program personnel continue to perform survey and regulatory activities in the Jersey City Quarantine.

Program Officials with the USDA and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture met February 2, to discuss removing additional trees from the Middlesex/Union ALB infestation site. On December 27, 2004 the State of New Jersey expanded the ALB quarantine area for the Carteret infestation from 10.5 square miles to 12.1 square miles. This amendment to the quarantine was due to the second infested tree, a red maple, found on November 10 within the original quarantine area in the city of Rahway. Because this find was close to the western edge of the quarantine zone, the expansion was necessary. Also, additional infested trees originally thought to be high-risk host trees have been identified as tree-cutting has progressed.

Program personnel remain on site during the tree removal process to address concerns from homeowners and to ensure operations continue to run smoothly.

The *Home News Tribune* of New Brunswick ran an update story February 3 about the Middlesex/Union ALB infestation, highlighting the results of a DNA test, which indicated the infestation to be a separate introduction and not the result of spreading from any other infestation sites in North America. The test also showed the infestation to be about six years old.